

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08

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TAGS: PINS, PE

SUBJECT: PERUVIAN POLITCKING IN THE NEW YEAR: APRA AND AP

REF: (A) LIMA 0046, (B) LIMA 0048

SUMMARY: THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS OF ACCION POPULAR AND APRA ARE IN FULL SWING AS PARTY LEADERS BELAUNDE TERRY AND HAYA DE LA TORRE SUCCESSFULLY ASSERT THEIR LEADERSHIP ROLES WITHIN THEIR PARTIES AND THEIR CONTINUING POLITICAL IMPORTANCE IN PERU. HAY'S MASS RALLY JAN 6 AND BELAUNDE'S MEETING WITH HIS FOLLOWERS IN CALLAO JAN 4 BOTH WENT WELL AND THEIR NON-DEMOGOGIC SPEECHES OFFERED NO SURPRISES.

1. FORMALLY INITIATING APRA'S CAMPAIGN FOR THE CONSTITUENT ELECTIONS, 82-YEAR-OLD PARTY LEADER HAYA DE LA TORRE ADDRESSED A LARGE TURNOUT IN THE PLAZA SAN MARTIN OF LIMA THE EVENING OF JAN 6 (REF A). IN HIS USUAL DISCURSIVE STYLE, HAYA SPOKE FOR ABOUT ONE HOUR, LARGELY IN GENERALITIES. HE CAREFULLY SKIRTED ANTI-GOVERNMENT OR ANTI-MILITARY REMAKRS. ALLUDING TO HIS PAST ADDRESSES IN THE PLAZA IN 1931 AND 1945, HAYARECALLED THE LONG PATH APRA HAS FOLLOWED AND CALLED FOR VICTORY

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IN THE JUNE 1978 ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS. HE RIDICULED THE NOTION THAT PERU'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS COULD BE ATTRIBUTED SOLELY TO A "CRISIS OF CAPITALISM." THIS MISCONCEPTION OF CERTAIN INTELLECTUALS OCCURRED ALSO IN 1930, HE NOTED, AND THEIR CONFUSHED ANALYSISES MORE RECENTLY HAVE PROVOKED MANY OF THE COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS. IN PASSING, HAYA DISAGREED WITH THE RECENT COMMENTS TO THE PRESS OF PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ CONCERNING GOVERNMENT VS.

POWER (REF B) AND AGREED WITH THE CALL FROM THE CROWD FOR "NO MORE DICTATORS." HOWEVER HAYA TOOK CARE TO LINK THIS CRITICISM WITH SPECIAL PRAISE FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EFFORTS TO END THE HISTORIC CONFLICT BETWEEN THE ARMED FORCES AND APRA.

2. THE SPEECH WAS UNEXCEPTIONABLE BUT WELL-RECEIVED BY AN ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD ESTIMATED AT BETWEEN 60 AND 100,000. APRA DEMONSTRATED ITS ABILITY TO RUN OUT A SIZABLE MANIFESTATION OF HOMAGE AND AFFECTION FOR ITS VETERAN LEADER, WELCOMED WITH A 20 MINUTE OVATION. HAYA IN TURN PLAYED THE ROLE OF AN HONORED AND KINDLY PROFESSOR ADDRESSING AN OVERCROWDED BUT FRIENDLY CLASSROOM. HAYA'S ADDRESS WAS PRECED BY SPEECHES FROM THREE APRA COLLEGIAL SECRETARIES: LABOR LEADER LUSI NEGRIEROS; APRA WOMEN'S REPRESENTATIVE JUDITH PRIETO DE ZEGARRA; AND 31-YEAR-OLD ALLAN GARCIA PEREZ (THE LATTER A "YONG HAYA" ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS). CUTTING ACROSS AGE, SEX AND CLASS IN ITS SEPAKDEKS AS WELL AS AMONG THOSE ATTENDING (INCLUDING MANY YOUNG PEOPLE), THE MEETING ALSO SHOWED THAT APRA STILL RETAINS IMPORTANT INFLUENCE IN VARIOUS SECTORS OF PERU'S SOCIETY.

3. FRANCISCO BELAUNDE TERRY'S RALLY IN THE PORT CITY OF CALLAO JAN 4 CONTRASTED MOST NOTICEABLY IN THE ORATORICAL STYLES OF THE TWO PARTIES' LEADERS. IN HIS ACCUSTOMED CLEAR AND ELEGANT SPANISH, BELAUNDE DELIVERED A SHORTER, WELL-ORGANIZED AND MORE POINTED PROFESSORIAL LECTURE THAN HAYA. BELAUNDE'S SPEECH WAS ALSO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MORE DIRECTLY CRITICAL OF THE PRESENT AND PAST MILITARY GOVERNMENTS THAN THE APRA LEADER'S JAN 6 ADDRESS. ABOUT 5 TO 6,000 PERSONS ATTENDED THE CALLAO OUTDOOR RALLY WHICH HAD BEEN CALLED ON SHORTER NOTICE THAN THE APRA RALLY AND WHICH ACCION POPULAR APPARENTLY HAD NOT RPT NOT TRIED TO TURN INTO A MASSIVE DEMONSTRATION. IN CALLAO AND ON JAN 8 IN CUZCO, BELAUNDE REPEATED AP'S USUAL CALL FOR CONGRESSIONAL AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS THIS YEAR. BOTH AP AND APRA CROWDS DISPLAYED CONSIDERABLE GOOD HUMOR AND QUIET ATTENTION TO THE SPEAKERS AND THERE WERE NO INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE OR OF GOP INTERFERENCE.

4. COMMENT: AP AND APRA DOMINATED THE PAST WEEK'S POLITICAL NEWS ALONG WITH THE ALMOST UNIVERSALLY NEGATIVE POLITICAL REACTION TO MORALES BERMUDEZ' DEC 30 REMARKS THREATENING DISSOLUTION OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY IF IT DID NOT INSTITUTIONALIZE THE REFORMS OF THE PAST 9 YEARS. AP SHARPLY CRITICIZED THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS AS DID APRA. HOWEVER, THE LATTER PROBABLY WILL NOT MAKE A CAMPAIGN ISSUE OF THIS INCIDENT, WHILE AP MAY. ANTI-MILITARY REMARKS BY AP SPEAKERS ATTACKING A "SPECIAL PRIVILEGED CASTE" DREW APPLAUSE FROM THE CROWD AWAITING BELAUNDE IN CALLAO AND THIS THEME MAY BECOME A FEATURE OF AP CAMPAIGNING. APRA SO FAR IS FOLLOWING A MORE CONCILIATORY LINE TOWARDS THE PRESENT

GOVERNMENT.

5. ALTHOUGH BOTH AP AND APRA ARE MAKING INITILLY GOOD SHOWINGS AND ENJOY A CLEAR ADVANTAGE IN TERMS OF RECOGNITION, THE ELECTORATE APPEARS FAR FROM ANY DISCERNIBLE CONSENSUS. ONE LOCAL POLL SUGGESTS ALMOST HALF ARE UNCERTAIN OF THE PURPOSE OF THE JUNE 1978 CONSTITUENT ELECTIONS AND MOST POLLS SHOW OVER TWO-THIRDS OF THE POPULACE UNDECIDED REGARDING PARTY AFFILIATION. ABOUT HALF OF THE ELECTORATE WILL BE VOTING FOR THE FIRST TIME. DESPITE THESE UNCERTAINTIES, IT SEEMS SAFE TO SAY THAT APRA'S JAN 6 RALLY CONFIRMED ITS CREDENTIALS AS ONE OF THE MORE ORGANIZED, DISCIPLINED AND SIZABLE ELEMENTS ON THE PERUVIAN POLITICAL SCENE AND THAT BELAUNDE'S TV APPEARANCE DEC 18 77 LIMA 10992) AND SUBSEQUENT PUBLIC RALLIES REAFFIRMED HIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POSITION AS A RECOGNIZED AND WIDELY RESPECTED LEADER.
SHLAUDEMAN

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